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A HISTORY NEWSPAPER

Upon arriving at school one morning, we found posted in the sixth-grade room a typewritten notice which read:

"The Writs of Assistance" and "Revenue Laws"

We the magistrates of England hereby agree this year of our Lord 1761 that our colonies of North America shall trade entirely with England. That no American colony shall send its tobacco, its indigo, or its rice, to France, or Holland, or any other country than England. Neither can the colonists weave cloth or make ploughshares. They may grow the wool and smelt the iron, but these must be sent to England to be made into anything.

In order to see that these laws are enforced, we now give out to the principal officer of the customs house and all officers of the English government, "The Writs of Assistance."

Signed: *Lionel Langford*, King

Parliament

Prime Minister

People

Days before, the children had chosen sides for a coming debate, colonists against George III and his party. Since the great question had been decided for us by the Revolutionary War, our decisions were to be based upon the number of arguments offered which were historically correct, properly applied, and which would not receive adequate rebuttal. Among others, James Otis, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and Patrick Henry were to join in the debate, using, when they chose, their eighteenth-century statements, arguments, and speeches which are now a part of history.

Groups gathered about the posted notice. It was distinctly a challenge. The Tories and English delightedly slapped their knees. The colonists gravely planned to pick up the gauntlet.

Another morning we found this:

"Molasses Act"

We the magistrates of England in this year of our Lord 1733, put into effect the Molasses Act, in which you the colonists are to buy all molasses from the sugar planters in the English West Indies. If you do import molasses from the French Islands, a very heavy duty will be put on it.

Signed: *Lionel Langford*, King

Parliament

Prime Minister

People

And again:

"Stamp Act"

We the magistrates of England in the year of our Lord 1764, give to you (the colonists) a formal notice of the Stamp Act. This act only requires that legal documents and commercial instruments shall be written and newspapers printed on stamped paper. That all the people that sell the stamped paper are to be Americans.

Signed: *Lionel Langford*, King

Parliament

Prime Minister

The following month, before, during, and after our debate, an early-rising populace ranged itself before the daily bulletins in the sixth-grade room and eagerly devoured "news." As the teacher had not originated the dramatic campaign of bulletin and newspaper, nor been consulted regarding the various issues, she refrained from giving advice and but once offered a suggestion. She also once suppressed a set of cartoons and a bit of flippancy in the English organ about twentieth-century suffragettes.

Mistakes in spelling and English were corrected individually and in class. When historic inaccuracies were not detected by the

opposing group, and immediate correction was not necessary, the teacher assigned for home work the obscure point. As there was no one history textbook in use by the grade, each child owning a history chosen according to his ability to get from the printed page, there was lively interest in the presentation and discussion the following morning. "Forman says, 'thus and so'." "Let me read you how Fiske puts it in his United States History." And so on. Mace, Tappan, McMaster, Montgomery, Eggleston, Hume, Markham were dicussed, compared, rejected, or accepted. Again and again a child has said, "If that's the way it was, I'll have to change my yesterday's *Gazette*," or he has been promptly invited to do so by a vigilant member of the other party.

Since some of these issues are missing, and the order in which most of them appeared forgotten, this report cannot be other than fragmentary, depending as it does largely upon reminiscence and with the inaccuracies of two or three intervening years. Instead, therefore, of trying to present them as they originally came out, colonists answering or defying the English (not the English people, be it understood, but the opposing English party), all the papers still in existence for one side will be given, and then all those for the other.

NOTICE!!!!

NOTICE !!!!!

London England May 1767

WE THE MAGISTRATES OF ENGLAND AND PARLIAMENT

PASS THIS LAW. "THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES
SHALL PAY A PORT DUTY ON GLASS, PAPER, PAINT, LEAD, FRUIT
AND TEA !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Signed



KING



PRIME MINISTER



PARLIAMENT

FACSIMILIE OF NOTICE

The information that the representatives of the Crown were supported by the letter of the law brought forth this notice:

L A W
B E F O R E
J U S T I C E

Signed: Prime Minister

Marcia Preble, M.P.

Alma Cramer, M.P.

Margaret Keeley, M.P.

Elizabeth Greenebaum, King's Chief Adviser

Joe Pick, Sub Water-Carrier, otherwise M.P.

Lionel Langford, King

A frail, reticent, highly popular lad, represented Patrick Henry. During the debate, at the appropriate moment, Patrick Henry, with grim, fixed glare, teeth set, and upper lip lifted in determination, struck the desk before him and cried, "Then we will fight!" He surveyed his audience with deliberation and—seated himself. It was to such an extent unexpected and deliciously dramatic, that the colonists hugged themselves to keep from bursting into cheers. The humor of it all escaped no one. Next morning both papers, English and colonial, had cartoons of the grim Virginian as we had seen him the day before.



From the Boston News

COLONIST'S CARTOON OF PATRICK HENRY

Two children representing the English point of view chanced to have typewriters. We therefore find the King's documents, the *London Times* and *Spectator*, neatly typed. The colonists laboriously printed their sheets by hand, using pencil or ink, and on several hurried occasions reverted to common script.

L O N D O N T I M E S E X T R A

London, England August 1774

RESULT IN TOMORROW'S PAPER

THE DEBATE!!!!

At 9:35 o'clock gathered in the room where the debate was to be held, were eight people to represent England and twelve people to represent the colonists, and the Supreme Judge. At 9:36 the meeting was called to order. A silence which lasted about one minute ensued. Then the Prime Minister took the floor and read the following:

"In our late war with France we sent over troops to help defend the colonies and to carry on war in America. Now that the war is over and the French are driven out, the land that was formerly occupied by France is now open to the colonists. The colonists were benefited by the war, therefore, they should help to pay the debt it left behind it. The easiest way to collect the money will be to tax you.

"With part of the money we will keep a standing army in America. We will also send our governors and pay them out of the Royal Treasury."

Then followed a hot debate lasting for one hour.

Many good points were made on both sides.

DON'T FORGET TO
READ TOMORROW'S
PAPER.

(CARTOON)

PATRICK HENRY OF
VIRGINIA DELIVERING
HIS CELEBRATED
SPEECH: "Then we will
fight"

(Colonial papers please
copy.)

EXTRA!!!!!!!!!!!!

BUSINESS IS AT A
STANDSTILL
MERCHANTS COM-
PLAIN

The colonists will not buy anything from English merchants. They say, "We will not buy anything from England until she removes the tax from everything."

They are cutting off their noses to spite their faces.

L O N D O N T I M E S - E X T R A

London, England

April 1775

BALLOTS CAST TO DECIDE
THE DEBATE

Ballots have been cast to decide the debate between the colonists and England. If all the colonists cast their vote in favor of their side, and all the English cast a vote in favor of England, the colonists will win.

The result of the debate between England and the colonists has been delayed because the committee to do the work was so tired that the judge had to call off the meeting. The colonial paper, *The Boston News*, had a picture of the Prime Minister in it. The picture was so poor that you could not tell it was a human. This is because they do not use *English-made cameras*.

EXTRA!!!!
WAR EXPECTED WITH THE
COLONIES!

In an attempt to get the ringleaders of the rebels, the King has ordered General Gage to march a detachment of the men in Boston to Concord and seize the military stores kept there. On the way they are to seize Samuel Adams and John Hancock. If this can be done, the war that is brewing may speedily be brought to a close.

His Majesty, the King, is furious and says he will stop the rebellion of the colonies, and has ordered more troops to Boston.

* * * *

R E W A R D !

F O R T H E A R R E S T
O F S A M U E L A D A M S
A N D J O H N H A N C O C K

£50,000,000

D E A D

(Pistol)

O R

(Pistol)

A L I V E

(Skull and cross-bones)

Extra Edition.

Free.

EXTRA SPECTATOR EXTRA

EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

As this is a new newspaper. We are giving away this first and extra edition. After this the paper will come out once a week, at 2 pence an edition. As everything is new it may be a week before the paper will be perfect.

The colonists met at what they call The First Continental Congress. Here they declared that no government had the right to deprive Americans of their life, liberty or property, and asserted that the colonists had every right that an Englishman had.

E X T R A

Colonies declare themselves independent from Mother Country. General Gage is afraid to do anything. King mad with rage. More troops are going over to the colonies.

The King is going to send over more troops with the order to seize some powder that is at Concord also to capture Hancock and Adams.

E X T R A

The colonists have 15,000 troops. Don't you care we will get them yet.

Parliament.

<hr/>	
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS	
—o—	
From first page	As it is nine o'clock now, And the type is running low The editor is very large, But his brain doesn't seem to grow. So we will have to quit now And hope for a little more snow. Editor L. L. L.
Resolutions of sympathy for Massachusetts were passed. It looks as though they were really angry.	
Put your want ad's in this paper.	
2 pence	London Weekly News

* * * *

THE SPECTATOR

April 1775

<hr/>	
Editor's Comment.	DOINGS IN AMERICA
In this week's paper we are publishing all the news of the colonies as far as we can find out from our American correspondent.	Loss of our soldiers in America was very great. General Gage sent out 800 men to seize the powder that was stored at Concord; also to capture Hancock and Adams. When our soldiers reached Lexington the next morning they found fifty minute men ready to fight. Our soldiers were a little surprised, but fifty against eight hundred was rather silly. We killed eight and wounded ten.
Editor	
(Suppressed)	
<hr/>	

From first page.

Something still more surprising was that when they got to Concord, there were 400 minute men ready to fight.

Here with the minute men on the west side of the bridge, and the British on the east, in Concord town stood the two. It was a bad day for the British, for even though there were 800 to 400, our soldiers got the worst of it. Finally, as the British retreated, it was worse than the pitched battle, for minute men were firing from behind trees and houses. Our soldiers fled back to Lexington, where they found Lord Percy with 1100 men and two cannon.

Page 2

On the English side 271 were killed or wounded. Of the minute men, 49 were killed and 36 wounded, making 85 in all.

HARD KNOCKS SHOULD BE
EXPECTED IN ANY BATTLE
WORTH WHILE

The *Spectator* will save a column every week for want ad's. As this paper is seen by almost *everybody*, it would pay people to have their want ad's put in this paper. Don't wait any longer. Have them put in next week's paper.

* * * * *

I had rather a fool to be merry,
Than experience to make me sad.



HANCOCK - To the front you Lasy farmers

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING USED AS ILLUSTRATION

The *London Times* was edited by the Prime Minister. Our King edited *The Spectator*. Where they found the names, I failed to inquire; but the colonial editor said he had at home a book from the Historical Society, and whenever in his reading he found a good name he would use it as a title for the next issue.

There was never anything but best-natured "give and take." It was no uncommon occurrence to have a child say, "I'm going to talk for the colonists a while," and later, "Now, I'm on England's side."

If the humor was sometimes flat and tasteless, we said nothing, but neither did we pretend to think it funny. Because they were endured in the original, we have printed here such lapses, normal to children of the sixth school year.

Notices and papers following, show colonial thought; as has been said before, no effort has been made to keep the order in which they were presented. Some, it would appear, were taken bodily from historical sources, several were painstakingly copied in quaint old-fashioned hand; a half dozen were decorated with skull and crossbones. The illustrations were drawings, copied or original, and modern newspaper clippings.

TO THE COLONISTS

(Cartoon picturing Franklin's segmented snake)

U N I T E

O R

D I E

* * * *

"It is the duty of all, humbly and silently, to acquiesce in all the decisions of the Supreme Legislature. Nine hundred and ninety-nine in a thousand will never entertain a thought but of submission to our sovereign and to the authority of parliament in all possible contingencies.

James Otis."



*We the colonists
determinedly refuse to
pay this intolerably
unjust tax on the
articles aforesaid*

*Delaware
John Hancock
Samuel Adams
Massachusetts
Connecticut*

NOTICE POSTED BY COLONISTS

* * * *

(Skull and cross-bones)

Although you charge us less for the tea than we could smuggle it in from any other country for, we refuse to have

TAXATION

without

REPRESENTATION !!!!!!!

(Signed)

Delaware

James Otis

Samuel Adams

John Hancock

Connecticut

* * * *

(Skull—representing King)

(Cross-bones—representing England)

1. By taxing the people without their consent
2. By dissolving assemblies
3. By quartering troops on the people in time of peace
4. By trying men without a jury
5. By passing the five Intolerable Acts

(Signed)

Matthew Thornton, N. H.

George Read, Delaware.

Ed. Rutledge, South Carolina.

George Walton, Georgia.

Benj. Franklin, Pennsylvania.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS AND GRIEVANCES

- I. We Americans are subject to the British crown.
- II. That it is the natural right of a British subject to pay no taxes unless he had a voice in laying them.
- III. That the Americans were not represented in parliament.
- IV. That parliament therefore could not tax them, and that an attempt to do so was an attack on the rights of Englishmen and the liberty of self-government.

(Signed) People of Massachusetts

John Hancock

* * * *

THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

1. We want life, liberty, and property.
2. We want to tax ourselves.
3. To assemble peaceably to the redress of grievances.
4. To enjoy the rights of Englishmen, and all the rights granted by the colonial charters.

These rights are being *violated*.

(Signed) John Hancock

Colonists of Delaware
 Colonists of Massachusetts
 Colonists of New Jersey
 James Otis
 Samuel Adams
 Colonists of Pennsylvania

* * * *

RESOLVED

That these United Colonies are, and of a right ought to be, free and independent states, they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved.

Philad., July 5, 1775.

Mr. Strahan:

You are a Member of Parliament and one of that Majority which has doomed my Country to Destruction.

You have begun to burn our towns and murder our people. Look upon your hands! They are stained with the Blood of your Relations. You and I were long friends; you are now my Enemy,—and

I am

Yours,

B. Franklin
(*flourish*)

* * * *

BOSTON NEWS EXTRA

THE FIRST SPEECH WAS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER

(*Cartoon*)

Prime Minister

"In our late war with France, we sent over troops to help defend colonies," etc.

On account of the debate, all printing offices were closed.

(*Cartoon of large man representing colonists whipping small boy, representing English.*)

Patrick Henry's celebrated speech, "Then we will fight."

E X T R A

Many good points made by both sides, but is 13-5 in favor of colonists.

London Times has a picture of Patrick Henry. Thought it was funny. Said that all colonial papers should copy. Picture was like this. Pretty poor picture. Wonder who made the copy.

KEEP UP NOT BUYING FROM THE ENGLISH MERCHANTS.

BOSTON NEWS



THOMAS HARPER

Agent for

INLAND TRANSPORTATION

Receives at his store, No. 468 Market, above Twelfth Street, merchandise intended for Pittsburg and any of the towns on the main road leading thereto, and for all the principal towns in the southern, western, or eastern states.

John Hancock sent a letter to the *London Times* press asking what a CAMERA was. Reward five pounds for anybody who knows what it is.—*Boston Press.*

The King is furious, the *London Times* says, but the Colonists say, "Let him be. We are ready for a war."

* * * *

BOSTON NEWS EXTRA

CAMERA

A man who said his name was Cotton Mather, a farmer, came to the Press today and said that he knew what a camera was. He said that it was the horse he had. Then he demanded the five pounds. He got the five pounds. But where? Not in his pocket, BUT ON HIS BACK. And also, how could a horse draw pictures?

(Cartoon of Camera, the horse, and Cotton Mather.)

General Thomas Gage has been appointed Military Governor of Massachusetts. Alarmed at the angry state of the people, he fortified Boston Neck, the only land approach to the city of Boston.

TURN THIS
PICTURE UPSIDE
DOWN AND YOU
WILL FIND A
SAD REVERSE



* * * *

THE BOSTON NEWS

EXTRA from Pennsylvania

(Cartoon)

The Penn. Journal dropped its usual heading and in place of it put an arch with a skull and cross-bones underneath and this motto, "Expiring in the hopes of a resurrection to life again." In one corner was a coffin, and these words, "The last remains of the Penn. Journal, which departed this life the 31st of October, 1763, of a stamp in her vitals. Aged 23 years." The Penn. Gazette, on Nov. 7, the day of its first issue after the Stamp Act became law.

The Colonists caught the King.
We roasted him and toasted him,
And hit him BING.
He lay on the couch
And yelled "Ouch!"
At the Enemy's approach
The King made a face like a roach.

THE BOSTON NEWS

Jan. 29, 1776

(Cartoon)

Run away, the 23rd of this inst. January, from Silas Crispin, of Burlington, a servant man, named Joseph Morris, by trade a tailor, aged about 22 years, of middle stature, swarthy complexion, light gray eyes, his hair all off, marked with a large pit of the small-pox on one cheek near his eye. Had on when he went away a good felt hat. Reward three pounds.

To be disposed of. A likely servant man. Time four years. Who understands school teaching and reads, writes.

THE STEAMBOAT

Is now ready again to take passengers and is intended to take its trip from Arch street ferry, in Philadelphia, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, for Burlington, Bordontown, Bristol, and Trenton, to return on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

TO BE SOLD



TWO VERY LIKELY
NEGROE BOYS, ENQUIR
OF CAPTAIN BENJAMIN CHR-
ISTIAN AT HIS HOUSE IN
ARCH STREET ALSO A
QUANTITY OF VERY GOOD
LIME-JUICE TO BE SOLD
@ HEAP.

A parcel of likely negro women and girls, to be sold at Isaac Morris's alley.

THE BOSTON NEWS

WAR EXPECTED WITH ENGLAND

(*Cartoon*) England thinks of having war with Massachusetts and expects to win. Is mistaken.

Other colonies, mainly Virginia, will help fight if need be.

Join or die Washington says he can raise 1,000 men, and march at their head. No colony is going to stand by idly and see another colony crushed.

(*Cartoon*)

A call to arms. Our motto, "Be Ready."

* * * *

BOSTON GAZETTE

1775

<p>(<i>Cartoon</i>)</p> <p>The last remains of the <i>Boston News</i>.</p>	
<p>MINUTE MEN</p> <p>12,000 minute men are ordered to be enrolled. These minute men are men pledged to be ready for service, at a minute's notice, and lest 12,000 should not be enough, neighboring colonies will raise it to 20,000.</p>	<p>(Full map of Boston, Lexington, Concord, and neighboring towns.)</p>
<p>BRITISH AND COLONISTS MAY COME TO BLOWS</p>	<p>LOST</p> <p>Five pewter spoons. Five pounds reward! At Silas Crispin.</p>
<p>A committee of correspondents is one of the means of promoting union. By this means Virginia suggested a congress of the colonies.</p>	<p>Pewter spoons to be sold at Paul Revere's house, across from the Liberty Pole.</p> <p>Price per dozen \$3.50.</p>

* * * *

BOSTON GAZETTE

Warren, with 1,500 men from various colonies fortified a hill, called Bunker Hill, overlooking Boston, with Putnam and Prescott. The Americans resisted two desperate assaults. Then their ammunition gave out at the third charge and had to give way. The British left a thousand dead and wounded, and the Americans lost four hundred and fifty. But among the dead was General Joseph Warren.

All of the press were at Lexington, fighting, so no papers were printed.

Green Mountain boys came together in arms when they heard about the fight at Lexington.

Even if the Green Mountain boys did come from the Green Mountains, that did not make them green.

General Gage sent soldiers to Concord to capture some supplies stored there, and on their way arrested John Hancock and Samuel Adams. Paul Revere aroused the country along the road, shouting "The regulars are out." Alarm bells were rung.

When the British troops came, they found about fifty men drawn upon the Lexington green. "Disperse, ye rebels," shouted Pitcairn. "Don't fire unless fired upon," said Captain Parker, "but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here."

The Americans stood their ground, and the firing began. Eight Americans were killed and eight wounded. The British went on and destroyed some supplies at Concord. At Concord bridge they were attacked by some Americans, and when the British fell back and started for Boston, they found the countryside alive with riflemen, who, from behind tree and house, haystack, fence, and mound, poured in a deadly fire. The British loss was 270. The Colonists, 93.

—*Reprint.*

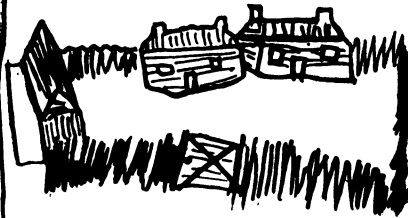
* * * *

SPY

THE SPY
IS PUBLISHED
WEEKLY
AT NO. 6, MERCHANTS
HALL
C. W. ORTH
EDITOR
F. CORDO
PRINTER
TERMS

TWO DOLLARS PER
ANNUM, PAYABLE IN
IN ADVANCE
AGENTS ALLOWED
EVERY SIXTH COPY

SALVATION
TO DATE MY BEING
FROM THE OPENING YEAR,
I COME A STRANGER!
IN THIS BUSY SPHERE.



FIRST KENTUCKY
SETTLEMENT

*Independence was decided on in
the Continental Congress on July 2
and was announced July fourth.
The signing took place on Aug.
2. The names of the sign-
ers will not be known for
six months, or a matter as
this might bring all of the men
to the gallows.)*

(Page Two)

ENGLISH AFRAID TO FIGHT

The king hired Hessians, which are men from Hesse-Cassel, a state in Germany, to fight against the Americans. In May, 1776, the Americans learned that 10,000 of these Hessians were coming to help subdue them. They have no principle at stake, no love of country to fight for, they come only for pay, hired by the British to fight against British flesh and blood in America. This has aroused bitter resentment among us. It has made reconciliation hopeless, and the Declaration of Independence certain.

JOHN HANCOCK'S SIGNATURE.

(Signature with flourish.)

"So big that George III can read it."

* * * *

S P Y

A WEEKLY PAPER

Washington says, "When I first took command of the army, I abhorred the idea of independence."

Jefferson says, "Before the 19th of April, 1775, I never heard a whisper of a disposition to separate from the mother country."

Franklin says, "The colonists did not desire independence, and they did not oppose the measures of parliament for this purpose, but as the war has now begun, it will be hard to stop."

Congress has published for the colonists a paper called "The Causes of Taking Up Arms." It is to defend our rights.

The colonists took up arms "In defence of the freedom that is our birthright, for the protection of their property and against violence actually offered. Being of one mind, we resolve to die freemen rather than to live slaves." But we still hope to be reconciled to the mother country, and to avoid the calamities of war.

POETRY

The inner side of every cloud
Is bright and shining.
I therefore turn my clouds about
And always wear them inside out
To show the lining.

Another good poem next week.

* * * *

Why the papers stopped when they did, I am unable to say. Seven or eight children had done the work voluntarily and out of school hours, the only stimulus they received being eager, omnivorous interest of their classmates. I suspect that with the advent of battles of the Revolutionary War, other dramatic forms of expression naturally took the place of the daily press, such as battles in the sand-pan, demonstrations from home-made maps of positions and engagements, and spontaneous acting of impressive situations.

This report presents but one of the many expressions which group themselves about a piece of work in history.

NOTE—In these times of terrible European conflict the question again presents itself whether it is safe or wise to teach children about battles and warfare. Without offering the arguments for or against such teaching, a single point is advanced which to me carries conviction: Children's battles are bloodless. We do not permit the imaginary stalking of wild game, the playing at Indian, the knowledge of fortress and battle in order that we may cultivate and intensify such passing interests, but rather that through expression we may aid in a normal outlet to such imagery and action. It is in the inhibition and repression of instincts that we find later menace, not in the judicious exercising of them under direction.

N. E. L.

